

### **REMARKS**

Claims 2-3, 5-7, 10, 15, and 19-20, which the Office Action indicates to be directed to allowable subject matter, remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 8-9, 11-14, and 16-18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot their rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 is effectively overcome by eliminating the phrase [user/contact relationships] from the end of now-independent Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10. The rejection of Claim 17 is rendered moot by its cancellation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 are respectfully requested.

The wording of text in what had been independent Claim 1 (now incorporated into Claims 2-3, 5-7, 10) has been modified for purposes of clarity and not to limit the scope of the claims. Applicants emphasize that each of the terms “between” and “among” are to be interpreted as involving *two or more* entities (users or contacts). Use of both terms in claim language ensures this broad interpretation is preserved, even if not always emphasized in the specification.

There appears to be a typographical error in ¶ 5 of the Office Action, near the bottom of page 2. The statement of rejection should have indicated “Claims 1, 4 ....” rather than “Claims 1-2” because there is an explanation of rejection of Claim 4 on the following page, but there is no explanation of rejection of Claim 2. Moreover, Claim 2 is explicitly indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter (see ¶ 1 of Office Action). Accordingly, allowable Claim 2 remains pending but rejected Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Because only allowed claims now remain pending in the application, and no issues or requirements remain outstanding, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal any outstanding objections or rejections are respectfully requested.

Change of Correspondence Address; New Associate Attorney

A "Revocation of Associate Power and Appointment of New Associate Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address" is filed herewith. The Appointment recognizes the undersigned attorney to prosecute the case. It is requested that the examiner verify that the address information has been entered into the PTO mailing system so that future communications will be mailed to the correct address.

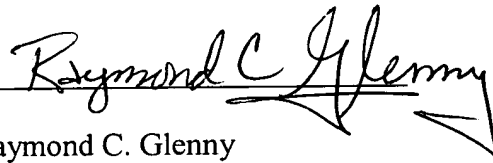
Conclusion

All objections and rejections have been overcome, complied with, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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